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Amendment

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-13 without prejudice and please insert in their place the following substitute claims that have been numbered beginning with number one.

Therefore, please add the following new claims:

- 14 X. A conjugate comprising:
- a. a biospecific affinity counterpart that is capable of binding to a predetermined structure, and
 - b. a peptide that
 - i. contains an amino acid sequence that is derived from a superantigen,
 - ii. has the ability to bind to a V β of a T cell receptor, and
 - iii. has been mutated to show a modified ability to bind to MHC class II antigens compared to the superantigen from which the peptide is derived,
- which parts are covalently linked together.

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2. The conjugate according to claim ¹⁴ wherein:

a. the biospecific affinity counterpart is directed towards a cell surface structure, and

b. the conjugate has the ability to activate T-lymphocytes to lyse cells that exhibit the cell surface structure on their cell surface.

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3. The conjugate according to claim ¹⁵ 2, wherein the biospecific counterpart is directed against a cell surface structure associated with a disease.

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4. The conjugate according to claim ¹⁶ 3, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of cancers, viral infections, autoimmune diseases and parasitic infestations.

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5. The conjugate according to claim ¹⁷ 4, wherein the disease is a cancer.

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6. The conjugate according to claim ¹⁸ 5, wherein the biospecific affinity counterpart comprises a polypeptide structure.

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7. The conjugate according to claim ¹⁹ 6, wherein the biospecific counterpart is selected from the group consisting of an antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof.

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8. The conjugate according to claim 6, wherein the biospecific affinity counterpart and the peptide are fused together.

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9. The conjugate according to claim 8, wherein the biospecific counterpart is selected from the group consisting of an antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof.

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10. The conjugate according to claim 2, wherein the ability of binding to MHC class II has been altered by at least 10%.

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11. The conjugate according to claim 6, wherein the ability of binding to MHC class II has been reduced.

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12. The conjugate according to claim 9, wherein the ability of binding to MHC class II has been reduced.

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13. The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the superantigen is a staphylococcal enterotoxin.

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14. The conjugate according to claim 6, wherein the superantigen is a staphylococcal enterotoxin.

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15. The conjugate according to claim ²²9, wherein the superantigen is a staphylococcal enterotoxin.

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16. The conjugate according to claim ²³10, wherein the superantigen is a staphylococcal enterotoxin.

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17. The conjugate according to claim ²⁴11, wherein the superantigen is a staphylococcal enterotoxin.

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18. The conjugate according to claim ²⁵12, wherein the superantigen is a staphylococcal enterotoxin.

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19. The conjugate according to claim ¹⁵13, wherein the superantigen is a superantigen requiring zinc ions for binding to MHC class II antigens.

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20. The conjugate according to claim ³²19, wherein the superantigen has been mutated in a codon encoding an amino acid residue which coordinates zinc when the superantigen binds to MHC class II antigens.

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21. The conjugate according to claim ³⁷20, wherein the superantigen is a staphylococcal enterotoxin.

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~~22. The conjugate according to claim 21, wherein the superantigen is selected from the group consisting of staphylococcal enterotoxin A or E.~~

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23. A method for the treatment of a diseased condition in a mammal, which condition means the presence of specific cells that are associated with the condition by the expression of a disease specific cell surface structure, wherein one administers to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of covalent conjugate that is able to activate T lymphocytes to lyse cells that carry the disease specific cell surface structure and comprises:

- a. a biospecific affinity counterpart that is capable of binding to said surface structure, and
- b. a peptide that
 - i. contains an amino acid sequence that is derived from a superantigen,
 - ii. has the ability to bind to a V β of a T cell receptor, and
 - iii. has been mutated to show a modified ability to bind to MHC class II antigens compared to the superantigen from which the peptide is derived.

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24. The method of claim 23, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of cancers, viral infections, autoimmune diseases and parasitic infestations.

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25. The method of claim 24, wherein the disease is a cancer.

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26. The method of claim 23, wherein the superantigen is a superantigen requiring zinc ions for binding to MHC class II antigens.

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27. The method of claim 26, wherein the superantigen has been mutated in a codon encoding an amino acid residue which coordinates zinc when the superantigen binds to MHC class II antigens.

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28. The method of claim 23, wherein the superantigen is a staphylococcal enterotoxin.

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29. The conjugate according to claim 23, wherein the superantigen is selected from the group consisting of staphylococcal enterotoxin A or E.

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30. The method of claim 27, wherein the superantigen is a staphylococcal enterotoxin.

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31. The method of claim 23, wherein the biospecific affinity counterpart comprises polypeptide structure.

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32. The method of claim 31, wherein the biospecific affinity counterpart is selected from the group consisting of an antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof.

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33. The method of claim 31, wherein the biospecific counterpart and the peptide are fused together.

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34. The method of claim 32, wherein the biospecific counterpart and the peptide are fused together.

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35. The method of claim 34, wherein the superantigen is a superantigen requiring zinc ions for binding to MHC class II antigens.

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36. The method claim 35, wherein the superantigen has been mutated in a codon encoding an amino acid residue which coordinates zinc when the superantigen binds to MHC class II antigens.

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37. The method of claim 36, wherein the superantigen is a staphylococcal enterotoxin.

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38. The conjugate according to claim 37, wherein the superantigen is selected from the group consisting of staphylococcal enterotoxin A or E.